

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6256

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6429

EO 11652: GDS

TAGSPFOR,PE

SUBJ: LIMITED REACTION DEPORTATION POLITICAL ACTIVISTS

REF: (A) LIMA 6323 (B) LIMA 6295 (C) LIMA 6294

1. NO DISTURBANCES OR ANTI-GOP ACTIVITY HAVE YET RESULTED FROM DEPORTATION OF FAR LEFT AND APRA-POLITICAL LEADERS. AUGUST 7 EXPRESO, HOWEVER, CARRIED HEADLINE AND FULL PAGE EDITORIAL REGISTERING "ALARM AND REVOLUTIONARY PROTEST IN RELATION TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ACTIONS..." EDITORIAL NOTED THAT BIWEEKLY MARKA SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN CLOSED, BECAUSE ITS COMMENTS ON CHILEAN GOVERNMENT "COULD IN NO WAY ENDANGER OUR RELATIONS. THE OPINION EXPRESSED DID NOT REPRESENT OFFICIAL VIEWS NOR EVEN THAT OF AN IMPORTANT SOCIAL SECTOR. THE ACTION TAKEN WAS UNJUST, AND IN ANY CASE, DISPROPORTIONATE."

2. EXPRESO FURTHER DECLARED THAT THE GOP WRONGLY EQUATED THOSE WHO CRITICIZE REVOLUTION FROM LEFT WITH THE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES OF APRA (WITH WHOSE DEPORTATION EXPRESO HAD NO QUARREL). AND THE "TIMING OF THIS ACT CONTRIBUTES TO DAMAGE IT COULD CAUSE TO THE REVOLUTION...BECAUSE OF
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UPCOMING CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES WITH PARTICIPATION

OF TRULY ADVANCED THIRD WORLD REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS,...AND BECAUSE THE POLITICAL MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTION IS IN ITS INITIAL STAGES."

3. EXPRESO POINTS OUT THAT VELASCO IN HIS INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH CALLED FOR OPEN AND DEMOCRATIC STRUGGLE WITH ADVERSARIES OF REVOLUTION. EDITORIAL AGREES THAT COUNTER-REVOLUTION MUST BE DEALT WITH, BUT GOP SHOULD NOT AT SAME TIME ENGAGE IN INDISCRIMINATE POLITICAL REPRESSION. EXPRESO CALLS ON GOP TO "RECTIFY ITS ERROR AND TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES WHO WISH TO DESTROY OUR REVOLUTION AND THOSE WHO DISAGREE AND COMPETE BUT ARE NOT COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES. ONLY IN THIS WAY CAN GOVERNMENT AVOID INDELIBLE STIGMA OF ARBITRARY REPRESSION."

4. CORREO EDITORIAL ALSO TAKES ISSUE WITH GOP ON CLOSING OF MARKA AND EXPULSION ITS STAFF BUT CONCURS WITH GOP DEPORTATION OF POLITICAL ACTIVISTS BOTH FROM APRA AND FAR LEFT.

5. APRA, SUTEP, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF DEFUNCT PUBLICATION MARKA HAVE ISSUED VERBAL PROTESTS, SUTEP LEADER REPORTEDLY CALLED FOR NATIONAL MOBILIZATION IN PROTEST ARBITRARY ACTION.

6. COMMENT: THERE ARE NUMEROUS THEORIES AS TO WHY GOP DECIDED TO ARREST AND DEPORT OPPOSITION POLITICAL ACTIVISTS. GOP SOURCES HAVE MENTIONED APRA AND FAR-LEFT CONSPIRACY TO STAGE UNREST AND GENERAL STRIKE IN SOUTH DURING BOLIVIAN INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION IN HOPES OF DISORIENTING GOP AND CREATING DIFFICULTIES WITH CHILE. EMBASSY OF OPINION THAT GOP MOVE AGAINST APRA RELATES TO RECENT APRA DECISION (REFTEL C) TO PICK UP GAUNTLET LAID DOWN BY VELASCO IN HIS JULY 28 ADDRESS WHEN HE SAID REVOLUTION WOULD COMPETE WITH ADVERSARIES IN DEMOCRATIC COMPETITION. APRA RESPONSE TO VELASCO'S SPEECH WAS EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED OR DISSEMINATED THIS WEEK. MORE IMPORTANTLY, APRA HAS HAD SOME SUCCESS IN CULTIVATING MILITARY. VILLANUEVA WAS EXPANDING CONTACTS BEYOND NAVY AND HAD APPARENTLY MET RECENTLY WITH GROUP OF ARMY COLONELS. THIS KIND OF "INFILTRATION" COULD NOT BE TOLERATED BY VELASCO AND THE GENERALS.

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7. AS FOR THE FAR-LEFT, GOP HAD BEEN GEARING UP FOR CRACK-DOWN ON BOTH TEACHERS UNION SUTEP AND PEASANT ORGANIZATION CCP. THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS THAT FAR-LEFT GROUPS WERE PLANNING DISRUPTIVE MEASURES IN THE AUGUST 15-25 PERIOD COINCIDING WITH OPENING OF NAC IN ORDER TO EMBARRASS GOP. FACED WITH THIS POSSIBLE EMBARRASSMENT, GOP ACTED NOW TO ROUND UP AND EXPEL KEY LEADERS.

8. WITH LATEST DEPORTATIONS GOP LEAVES NO DOUBT ABOUT ITS DETERMINATION TO ACT WITH VIGOR TO SUPPRESS DISSIDENT ACTIVITY, WHATEVER THE SOURCE. ALTHOUGH NO ACTION TAKEN AGAINST MOSCOW-LINE COMMUNIST PARTY, IT NO DOUBT ON NOTICE AS TO LIMITS OF ITS DUAL POLICY: POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR REVOLUTION ON THE ONE HAND, WHILE AT SAME TIME IT SUPPORTS DISRUPTIVE STRIKES BY COMMUNIST TRADE UNION CGTP ON THE OTHER.
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